



Winter 2025

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## SEFA to Celebrate 50th Anniversary in 2025

Mark Your Calendars Now for the 2025 SEFA Spring Conference Celebrating 50 Years!! April 29th - May 1st, 2025 - Saddlebrook Resort - Tampa, FL. Come enjoy the event at this great resort with opportunities for networking, informative sessions, entertainment, social events, 50th celebration and awards, golf & even some pickleball. If you can help us locate SEFA past presidents no longer in the industry, please contact Nancy Rich [sefa@thesefa.com](mailto:sefa@thesefa.com) This will be a great event bringing the industry and SEFA members past and present together!



**Derrick Brooks**

Our special keynote speaker will be Derrick Brooks, a member of the NFL Hall of Fame and the Capital One Academic All America Hall of Fame. His career with the Buccaneers earned him great recognition. His accomplishments and successes don't end with football. He pours himself into family and community. Derrick Brooks Charities are a major focus for him today. Come meet this incredible man.

Please consider sponsoring this event whether you will be in attendance or not. We want to make our 50th a special event for all and need your support!



**Hotel Reservations**



**Conference Details & Registration**

## Added Feature to Spring Conference

For those not golfing or playing pickle ball on Wednesday afternoon, we will have a special session: Sharing Ideas with Robbie from 10:00 a.m. to noon. There will be a discussion, with Robbie Gilchrist, of industry events and issues. This will be a great opportunity to learn what your peers challenges and concerns are. The best way of facing business is networking with your peers, this is one more opportunity during the conference! Register for this event at [www.thesefa.com](http://www.thesefa.com)

## President's Note

On behalf of the Board, I want to extend our gratitude for your continued support and dedication to SEFA. Your commitment to our industry and this organization is what makes SEFA so strong.

This year is particularly special as we celebrate SEFA's 50th Anniversary! We are thrilled to invite you to our Celebration at Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, FL April 29th-May 1st. This milestone event will be an opportunity to reflect on our history, recognize our achievements and look forward to an exciting future. Expect insightful discussion about the state of our industry, valuable networking and a celebration worthy of this remarkable occasion.

We are honored to welcome Hall of Fame Linebacker Derrick Brooks as our keynote speaker at our business meeting. A legendary leader on and off the field, Brooks is not only a Super Bowl champion and 11-time Pro Bowler but also a philanthropist and business leader. Mr. Brooks played his entire college and professional career in the Southeast for the Florida State Seminoles and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

We look forward to celebrating with you and making this a truly memorable event. Thank you for being a vital part of SEFA's success and we could not have reached this milestone event without you.

See you in Tampa!

***Tony Strein and The SEFA Board***

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## SEFA in the Spirit of the Holidays

On December 12th SEFA members met to celebrate the holidays in Tampa, FL. They came in their holiday attire to enjoy food and beverages at the Sail Pavillion before boarding for a cruise on Tampa Bay. The few hours of great camaraderie provided great holiday cheer among the group. There were some great holiday outfits with Anthony Crawl taking the prize as the evening's gingerbread man. Check our social schedule to plan your next business trips around them to enhance your business trips!

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# Member News

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## Brighton Best International Celebrates 100 years

Brighton-Best was established in 1925. In this decade, we saw surging fashion trends, economic prosperity, the repeal of prohibition, women's suffrage, and the end of a world war. The 1920's to 1930's were a time of great change and opportunity in the country. Our company began its history 100 years ago with the intention of providing distributors with tested, tried, and true products. For a country that is 249 years old, this is an amazing achievement. While the times have changed, our commitment to our distributors have not.

BBI is more than a place of fasteners. Our company is a place where trust in our brands and services can be counted on. A place where people embrace each other and a place where we envision the change of tomorrow. As we celebrate our centennial, we reflect on the journey that has brought us here. From humble beginnings, Brighton-Best has grown into a beacon of reliability and innovation. Our story is not just one of products and services, but of people and passion. Each bolt, each screw, each fastener we distribute is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team.

Imagine the hands that have touched these products over the years. The hundreds millions of hands that have built bridges, homes, and their dreams with these fasteners. These hands belong to individuals who have poured their heart and soul into their work, ensuring that every piece built with our industry fasteners meets the highest standards of quality.

We are more than just a company; we are part of a community. A community that has weathered storms, celebrated victories, and grown stronger together. The bonds we share are forged through collaboration and mutual respect. We have laughed together, sometimes cried together, faced challenges together, and achieved greatness together.

As we look to the future, we do so with a sense of excitement and optimism. The world is changing rapidly, and we are ready to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Our vision for tomorrow is one of innovation, sustainability, and continued excellence. We are committed to pushing the boundaries of what is possible and setting new standard of service in our industry.

To our employees, past and present, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your hard work, dedication, and passion have been the driving force behind our success. You are the heart and soul of Brighton-Best, and we are incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished together. We all truly stand on the shoulders of our predecessors who are in their own rights, giants of our industry. Let's keep making history together.

To our customers and partners, thank you for your trust and loyalty. Your support has been instrumental in our journey, and we look forward to continuing to serve you with the same level of excellence and integrity that you have come to expect from us. As we look to the next 100 years, we do so with appreciation, excitement, and optimism. Let's Go!

## Implementation of Tariffs to Affect the Fastener Business

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As of this publication printing, a 25% tax is set to be imposed on all imports of steel and aluminum into the US, ending exemptions from the rules for goods from major trade partners including Canada, Mexico, Brazil, as well as the European Union.

The expanded tariff measures announced by President Donald Trump, expected to go into effect next month, will mean many US businesses wanting to bring the metals into the country will have to pay more.

Trump has said there will be no exemptions from the rules this time, either for individual products or for particular countries, however some sectors are hoping he will row back from that position.



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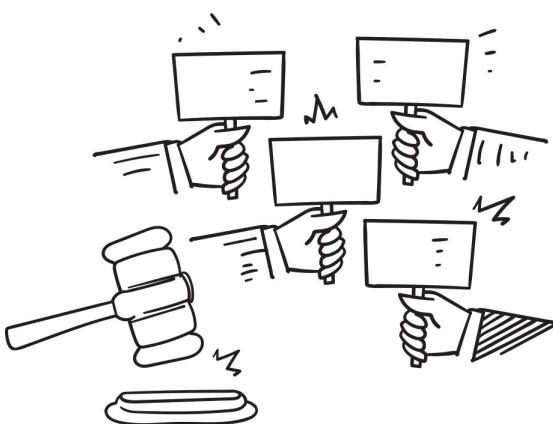
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## Silent Auction

This year's silent auction will have some extra special items including Sports Memorabilia from: **Shaquille O'Neal, Mike Tyson, Von Miller, Saquon Barkley, and more!**



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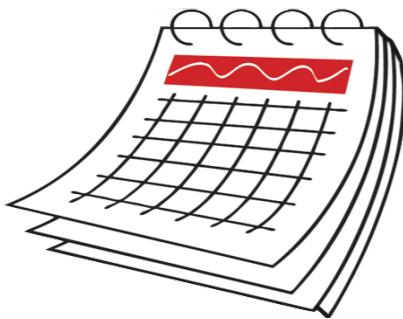
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# Upcoming Events

April 29th - May 1st      50th Anniversary Spring Conference  
*Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, FL*

August 7th      SEFA Summer Social  
*Atlanta, GA*

December 4th      SEFA Holiday Social  
*LOCATION TBD*



**SEFA Scholarship Applications**  
**Due: April 1st!**



## SEFA Welcomes New Members

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